

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2435

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS TEHRAN 6600

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

REF: STATE 157077

1. RESERVATIONS FOR ONE SINGLE AT IMPERIAL HOTEL CONCELLED PER INSTRUCTION PARA 1 REFTTEL. FYI: SEMIRAMIS RATES ARE \$31.10 FOR SINGLES AND \$38.00 FOR DOUBLES(INCLUDING SERVICE CHARGE). RATES AT OTHER HOTELS ARE SIMILAR. TOUR OF TEHRAN AREA BY AMERICAN EXPRESS WITH ARYA TOUR WILL COST \$86.60 FOR SIXTEEN PERSONS. THIS INCLUDES ENTRANCE FEES TO CROWN JEWELS AND OTHER MUSEUMS. TOUR TAKES FROM 2:30 P.M. UNTIL APROXIMATELY 6:30. MINIBUS FOR TRANSPORTATION IN TEHRAN CAN BE RENTED EITHER FOR 400 RIALS PERHOUR WITH 800 RIAL PER DAY MINIMUM, OR FOR 500 RIALS PER DAY FLAT RATE(NO MINIMUM). ONE DOLLAR EQUALS 66.52 RIALS. WE WILL DECIDE BASIS OF RENTAL NEXT WEEK AFTER SCHEDULE IS FIRMED UP.

3. FEE FOR MINIBUS, INCLUDING TOUR GUIDE, IN ISFAHAN WILL BE 400 RIALS PER HOURS. INCLUDES STORAGE OF BAGGAGE AND PICK-UP AND DELIVERY OF FELLOWS FROM AND TO AIRPORT. TOUR AGENT HAS MADE RESERVATIONS FOR LUNCH AT SHAH ABBAS HOTEL ON BASIS THAT EACH FELLOW WILL ORDER AND PAY INDIVIDUALLY.

4. EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED FOLLOWING IN SHIRAZ: RESERVATIONS AT PARK HOTEL AS PREVIOUSLY STATED. PARK HOTEL PRICES ARE \$20.74
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FOR DOUBLE AND \$15.55 FOR SINGLE, INCLUDING SERVICE CHARGE.

TOURIST AGENCY WILL PICK UP FELLOWS AT AIRPORT, TAKE THEM TO HOTEL, PICK THEM UP AT HOTEL IN MORNING FOR SIGHTSEEING, AND RETURN THEM TO AIRPORT FOR TOTAL COST OF \$132.30. SINCE PARK HOTEL HAS REPUTATION FOR GOOD SERVICE, WHEREAS DARIUS HAS REPUTATION FOR POOR SERVICE, AND SINCE PACKAGE ARRANGED BY EMBASSY MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE THAN PACKAGE OFFERED BY IRAN EXPRESS, WE ARE NOT CHANGING ARRANGEMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSTANTIVE APPOINTMENTS ARE UNDERWAY AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO FIRM THEM UP BY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

6. IRAN AIR INFORMED HEAD OF EMBASSY TRAVEL SECTION THAT IT HAS SENT CABLE TO TWA CONFIRMING THE FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS:

IRAN AIR FLIGHT 730, DEPARTING LONDON AT 1345 AND ARRIVING TEHRAN AT 2315 ON JULY 21,

IRAN AIR 425, DEPARTING TEHRAN AT 0700 AND ARRIVING ISFAHAN AT 0740 ON JULY 24;

IRAN AIR 231, DEPARTING ISFAHAN AT 1835 AND ARRIVING SHIRAZ AT 1915 ON JULY 24; AND

IRAN AIR 611 DEPARTING SHIRAZ AT 1245 AND ARRIVING KUWAIT AT 1305 JULY 25TH. IN OTHER WORDS IRAN AIR APPEARS TO HAVE "BARGAINED" WITH WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS: IN EXCHANGE FOR CONFIRMING RESERVATIONS ON THREE DOMESTIC FLIGHTS, THEY HAVE CHANGED YOUR INTERNATIONAL RESERVATIONS FROM BRITISH AIRWAYS TO IRAN AIR. DEPARTMENT MAY WANT TO RECOMMEND TO FELLOWS THAT THEY IGNORE IRAN AIR LONDON-TEHRAN FLIGHT AND PROCEED WITH ORIGINAL PLANS, OR EVEN BETTER FOR US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, TAKE PAN AM BETWEEN LONDON AND TEHRAN. IF FELLOWS ELECT TO DO THIS, EMBASSY WILL INFORM IRAN AIR AND STATE THAT IT EXPECTS RESERVATIONS ON TOURIST FLIGHTS WILL BE HONORED.

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